

House Joint Resolution 87 to determine if we are going to ship deadly, high-level nuclear waste through America's cities and towns, through our neighborhoods, and past our schools, hospitals and houses of worship. If you vote for this resolution, that is what you will be doing, sending over 100,000 massive shipments of highly radioactive waste through the communities you represent, shipments that would be rolling on our roads and our rails every day for the next 30 years.

A single accident would threaten the health of thousands, cost billions to clean up, and forever ruin property values. If you do not think this can happen and will, think again. Just follow the headlines of transportation disasters we see almost weekly. Someday, instead of gasoline or chemicals, the disasters will involve nuclear waste. Could you look at your constituents and their children and look them in the eye and tell them you voted for a resolution that allowed a massive catastrophe to ruin their lives?

Vote "no" on House Joint Resolution 87 for the sake of your families, the sake of your constituents.

MAKE THE BUSH TAX CUTS PERMANENT

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, American families have recently completed the dreaded chore of preparing their tax returns, but this year, many found a bonus. The IRS reports that the average income tax refund is over \$1,000, significantly higher than last year. What does this mean? Taxpayers are reaping the benefits of the Bush tax cut. Here in Congress, we should be proud of the cut that enables families to keep more of what they earn and for causing the economy to rebound as well.

But there is trouble on the horizon. Unless Congress takes action, this significant tax cut will expire in the year 2010 and our taxes will be raised.

It was over 2 centuries ago that Benjamin Franklin said, "Nothing is certain but death and taxes." While death and taxes may be certain, the death of this tax cut does not have to be.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act now to ensure that President Bush's tax relief is made permanent.

BENEFITS FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me quickly join in with my colleagues from California and Texas and others of goodwill to oppose the amendment that will be on the

floor today to deny legal immigrants, individuals who are accessing legalization, accessing citizenship, paying taxes, but, most of all, giving of their lives so that we might be free. What a tragedy. How heinous. I ask my colleagues to vote enthusiastically against denying legal immigrants their rightful benefits.

Let me move very quickly to my disappointment with the media who has now assessed Secretary Powell's trip as a failure. The Washington Post: "Powell to end trip without a cease-fire. Sides failed to agree to talk." Electronic media reported "Powell's trip unravels."

Let me just simply say that peace is long-standing. It is not for the impatient. Our lives depend on it. This administration must continue to engage. We must provide a constructive proposal, we must help, in order to have peace in the Mideast.

Secretary Powell must return to the Mideast.

BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESSES TO CONTINUE WELFARE REFORM

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take my 1 minute to talk about the Welfare Reform Act of 1996, one of the greatest public policy successes in half a century. This body will soon have the opportunity to continue the remarkable progress made over the past 6 years when we reauthorize the law.

Our Nation has seen a dramatic 56 percent drop in welfare caseloads as more families have broken the cycle of poverty and replaced welfare checks with paychecks. Welfare rolls are at their lowest levels since 1965, and more than 2 million children have been rescued from poverty, a remarkable success.

The reauthorization will allow us to build on the principles which have helped more Americans achieve self-reliance. It contains a strong work requirement, continues the focus on protecting children, and strengthening families, and gives more States flexibility.

Mr. Speaker, the emphasis on work and strengthening families in this new initiative represents a winning formula to put more needy Americans on the path toward a brighter future.

ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLBACKS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that a majority of Americans believe that we should do more, not less, to protect our environment, President Bush is pursuing several policies to roll back environmental progress.

Let us look at our national parks. Despite the clear evidence that snow-

mobile use is not compatible with the preservation and public enjoyment of Yellowstone, our world's oldest national park, the President is pushing to roll back a rule that would prevent snowmobile use there, a rule that the EPA said was among the most thorough and substantial scientifically based rules they had seen.

Right now, the administration and the Republican majority here is also trying to roll back a ban on personal watercraft like jet skis in our national parks, despite the clear indication from rangers that these have a negative effect on the enjoyment and preservation of the parks.

Mr. Speaker, our environment and our national parks belong to all of us, and we cannot let these series of environmental rollbacks ruin them for us.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAS BEEN PRODUCTIVE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, what do all these things have in common? Trade promotional authority, the energy bill, the job stimulus bill, the terrorist insurance bill, faith-based initiative; in fact, 51 bills all in common, plus 90 appointments for judges? What they all have in common is they have not been acted upon by the other body.

The American people elected a Republican House and we have been productive over here. Governors, CEOs, coaches, deserve to have their team in place.

We need the other body to act to put the administration's team in place and address the 51-plus bills that are in need of action.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. FRANK. Point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentleman will suspend. The gentleman should not urge action in the other body. The gentleman may proceed.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, we need to expedite and to take the bills that were in the House and get them passed by the other body.

The American people want action by its elected officials here in Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members not to refer to action in the other body.

U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION IS A CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER TO OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, Ludwig Koons still has not been returned from

Italy where he was abducted by his pornographer mother.

What is in this morning's newspaper headlines? Supreme Court decides to strike down the Child Pornography Protection Act. This is a clear and present danger to children all over the world.

I am concerned that this decision will allow the manufacture, distribution, and possession of virtual child pornography. We will potentially see a rise in the exploitation of children. Child pornographic material, whether virtual or not, is used to lure and to exploit children. I am concerned about the onerous burden that this is going to place on prosecutors. Prosecutors will now have to prove the identity of the children who are being exploited.

Well, this is a difficult task. The Supreme Court sent a terrible message, one that is terrible to send to the pornographic community that this behavior is okay. We can be sure that the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children will do everything within its power to right this wrong and to protect our children from exploitation, and we must bring Ludwig Koons home.

BIPARTISAN DENOUNCEMENT OF UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECISION INVOLVING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it should be obvious on the floor of the House today that the denouncement of yesterday's decision by the United States Supreme Court is truly bipartisan. As a father of three small children, I do rise to denounce this deplorable decision where the court struck down a 1996 Federal ban on computer-generated child pornography.

The court actually wrote that the law was not sufficiently precise and that the law does not make reference to any crime or the creation of any victims. The promotion and the creation of child pornography by definition create victims, Mr. Speaker.

I call on my colleagues to move forward expeditiously to right this wrong in the law. While the court has given solace to child pornographers, some protection from the law of man, I would close with reflecting on the law of God to those out there who create this material. The Good Book says that if anyone causes one of these little ones to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and that he would be drowned.

□ 1030

PASSAGE OF H.R. 476, CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 476, the Child Custody Protection Act. H.R. 476 has two important functions. First, it works to make sure that valid parental notification laws will not be circumvented. Second, it secures the right of a parent to be involved in medical decisions regarding their minor daughters.

I think it is important to note that even abortion rights advocates, such as Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation, all encourage minors to consult their parents before having an abortion. Not only can a parent provide the emotional and physical support that their daughter will need, but a parent also knows their daughter's medical history.

There is also widespread support for parental notification among the American people. A 1998 CBS New York Times poll found that 78 percent of those polled favored requiring parental notification.

I come from a State that requires parental notification. Yet, out-of-State clinics try to circumvent this law. It is not uncommon practice for clinics in New Jersey, a State without parental notification law, to advertise in Pennsylvania phone books. These clinics often go as far as to highlight the fact that they will perform an abortion without parental notification.

The passage of H.R. 476 effectively puts an end to this despicable practice. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FOOD STAMP RESTORATION

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus has been working hard to restore food stamp benefits to hard-working, tax-paying legal residents; I state, to hard-working, tax-paying legal residents. Unfortunately, the House amendment 2846 would leave thousands of legal residents, permanent residents, without food stamps. This amendment would discriminate against permanent legal residents.

This is a real problem for LPRs and their families. Thirty-seven percent of all children of immigrants live in families that cannot afford enough nutrition on a regular basis. Most immigrant families include at least one child that is an American citizen. These children go to school hungry because their parents cannot afford to pay for food stamps or apply for food stamps. How can these kids study and learn and concentrate in the classroom if they do not have enough to eat?

We talk about "leave no child behind." Well, we are about to do that, through this amendment. It is time for us to assure that all legal immigrants are eligible for food stamps. These are

hardworking, legal permanent residents who currently cannot buy food stamps because they are not eligible for assistance under the basic nutritional program.

I urge the President that he must deliver on his promises to the Latino community. We need his leadership and inclusion, not false promises.

CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 388 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 388

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 476) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions. The bill shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During the consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for purposes of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Committee on Rules met and granted a closed rule for H.R. 476, the Child Custody Protection Act. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. It provides consideration of H.R. 476 in the House with two hours of debate, equally divided and controlled between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the Child Custody Protection Act is important to any parent who has a teenaged daughter. We all hope that our teenaged daughters have the wisdom to avoid pregnancy, but if they make a mistake, a parent is best able to provide advice and counseling. Also, more importantly, the parent knows the child's past medical history.

For these reasons, my home State of North Carolina, along with several other States, requires a parent to know before their child checks into an abortion clinic.

This law is needed because of stories chillingly similar to the story of a Pennsylvania mother and the tragic story of her 13-year-old daughter.